

**MINUTES OF THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE SHREWSBURY & NEWPORT CANALS TRUST**

Saturday 11th September 2021 at 10.30 a.m.

This meeting was held virtually by Zoom.

Attendees.

Forty-eight members were in attendance (Bold text = Trustees):

Adrienne Barnwell, **Alan Boney, Alan Harding**, Alicia Fleming, Alistair Price, **Bernie Jones (Chair)**, Brian Nelson, Chas Warren, Mike & Cindy Jones, Dave Clark, **David Crow**, David Peters, **David Ray**, Dee Nelson, Dennie Jones, Derek Hillaby, Diana Harmer, Dominic Harrington, Janet Moulton, John Dalby, John Haynes, **John Heather, John Myers**, John Ravenscroft, **John Stevens**, Julia Olsen, Madeleine Jones, Malcolm Grey-Smart, Malcolm Parker, Marion & Jim Weir, Martin Ayres, Martin Buxey, Martyn Vincent, Pamela Hill, Peter Brown, Peter Rawlings, **Phil Jones**, Phil Tarrant, Ray Alexander, Sam Myers, **Sherrel Fikeis, Stephen Kearney, Steve Bean, Steve Jones**, Sue & David Cooper, Tam Hazan, **Vaughan Welch** and William Jones.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Ian Gaston, Paula Doherty & Richard Pringle.

2. Opening Remarks

The Chairman, Bernie Jones (BJ), thanked members who had made the effort to attend, from as far as New Zealand.

3. Minutes of the Nineteenth Annual General Meeting held on 5th September 2020.

The Minutes had been made available on the Trust's website. There was no request that they be read out, and there were no questions or matters arising. Adrienne Barnwell proposed that they were accepted as a true record, this was seconded by Steve Jones and agreed on a show of hands.

4. Report of the Trustees & Financial Statement for year ended 30th September 2020

These had been made available on the Trust website. The Report had been agreed by the Trustees and filed with Companies House.

The Treasurer, Steve Bean, presented a few slides to highlight some key figures and explain a few points - despite the pandemic, income had held up well; a marked increase in non-charitable expenditure was due to the payment of motor mileage expenses, but that every penny of these had been donated back, thus allowing Gift Aid to be claimed; and that designated funds were now maintained to cover five project areas (Berwick, Forton, Newport, Wappenshall and Narrow Boats) with income from grants, donations and bequests that specified that project as well as income generated by that project and funds designated by Trustees from general funds.

There were no comments or questions arising.

5. Chair's Report

Although the meeting covered the 12 months up to 30th September 2020, in his report Bernie Jones started with a presentation of activity that had taken place in the twelve months since the last AGM.

At the Shrewsbury end activity included the tremendous advances that had been made at Berwick where the canal now actually resembled a canal, the tree clearance carried out by the National Trust with whom a close partnership had been formed, and the support of the Waterway Recovery Group with whom weekend camps had continued.

At Wappenshall, work had progressed well on lining the basin and building a retaining wall for the edge of the basin. In the large warehouse the 'accommodation' for the owls and bats required by the planning permission had been completed.

At Newport activity included Himalayan balsam removal (a war being won), new interpretation signs, and ongoing work to install lock gates at Town Lock. Much of this was achieved with continuing support from the Town Council.

The work, often very dirty, to restore the narrowboats Bainton and Berkhamstead had also made considerable progress.

All of this had been achieved despite the Covid-19 restrictions; and none of it could have been achieved without the Trust's volunteers. But as well as physical work there was much that less active volunteers have done to raise the necessary funds, be it helping on a bric-a-brac stall at Norbury, recycling scrap metal, collecting used postage stamps or simply shopping on-line using Easyfundraising or participating in the Twincl lottery. But there is always a need for more volunteers in areas such as fundraising, manning the Trust stand, liaising with councils and other bodies, editing the website and newsletter or updating social media.

Looking to the future, the immediate strategy was to complete Wappenshall Wharf and open it to the public which would produce income from the coffee shop, tours and sales. Work would also continue to progress the Berwick Loop project in liaison with Shropshire Council, the National Trust and the Canal & River Trust.

6. Election of Trustees

Steve Bean explained that the Trust has 12 elected Trustees, of whom a third retire by rotation at each AGM. On this occasion they were Alan Harding, John Heather, Steve Jones and John Stevens. Alan Harding had decided because of work commitments not to seek re-election and was thanked for all he had done as a Trustee.

No other nominations had been received. Derek Hillaby proposed that the three (John Heather, Steve Jones and John Stevens) be elected en bloc. This was seconded by Tam Hazan. There was no dissent so the three were duly re-elected.

There were no other matters raised proper to the AGM and the meeting closed at 10.55 a.m.